

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated September 29, 2008. Claims 1 through 19 remain pending in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 6 contain the limitation “self-waking up of a slave from sniff mode,” and claim 6 contains the additional limitation of “transmitting a sniff interval time.” The Examiner contends that the reference at 0040 of filed specification (allocating the SIT to slaves that intend to enter sniff mode) fails to support the master transmitting the SIT to the slaves and the slaves wake up by themselves. Paragraph [0040] is merely a *brief* description of FIG. 4 which states “the master determines a sequence of services (S150), and thus allocates, to the slave that intends to enter the sniff mode, a Sniff Interval Time (SIT)...that is used for the slave to communicate with the master after being woken-up at the sniff interval time (SIT) (S160).”

As to the slaves self-waking up, the specification makes it perfectly clear that Sniff interval times at which to transmit and an active member number to utilize at that time (See table 2) are transmitted to the slave by the master before the slave enters sniff mode. A master table for all slaves is maintained by the master (see table 1). The slaves wake up after their assigned sniff interval times [see para 0047] (“*after the slave 8 and the slave 7 are woken up after the sniff interval times (SIT) different from each other, they use the active member address (001) so as to communicate with the master. That is, the slave 8 and slave 7 are woken up after the sniff interval time (SIT) following the time when the service of the slave 1 is finished such that they can receive the poll packet of the master so as to communicate with the master (S180).*”). As per [0057] “*the sniff interval time (SIT) represent[s] a waking-up time of the slaves from the sniff*

*mode to the active mode and a parameter of the active member address (AM\_ADDR) to be used after woken up (S320)."* Thus, it is clear that the slaves only remain in sniff mode for a prescribed period of time, and then they wake up. Since Applicant means simply that waking after the passage of time is autonomous, Applicant's term "self-waking" is not thought inappropriate and Applicant believes that one skilled in the art would understand what is meant. Nevertheless, Applicant herein amends paragraph [0040] to clarify this intent. Applicant believes that this change in the specification amply supports the language of claims 1 and 6, but if the Examiner disagrees he is invited to call the undersigned since Applicant is not opposed to altering the language of claims 1 and 6 as well.

As to "transmitting a sniff interval time" in claim 6, a similar change is made to Page 4, column 1, paragraph [0047], and the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if a change in the language of claim 6 would be preferred.

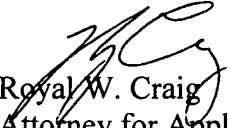
The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Fujioka (US 2002/0193073) in view of Hayashi et al. (US 2003/0021288). Likewise, the rejection of claims 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Fujioka was maintained, and the Examiner rejected claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Fujioka. The Examiner, however, did indicate that claims 4 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claims 1 and 6. Consequently, Applicant herein amends claims 1 and 6 to include all the limitations of claims 4 and 15, respectively, and so claims 1 and 6 as amended should now be patentable. Applicant has also incorporated the same patentable limitations of prior claims 4 and 15 (now claims 1 and 6) into claim 17, and so claim 17 is likewise patentably distinguished.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in the proper condition, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments were not earlier presented because they are prompted by the feedback given in the Examiner's most recent Official Action. The Amendment is calculated to expedite prosecution by limiting the claims to those deemed allowable, and so an entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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